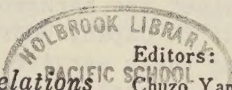


# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

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Editors:  
Chuzo Yamada  
Dorothy Burt  
Umeko Kagawa

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Booksellers Take Stand against Pornographic Literature . . . . .	1
Orientation Program for New Kyodan Missionaries. . . . .	1
Hymns of the Church, New English Hymnal of the United Church of Christ in Japan is Dedicated . . . . .	3
New Church Labor Center Opened at Izumi-sano, Osaka Kyoku . . . . .	3
Prayer Breakfasts on the Increase. . . . .	4
New Film Strips for Evangelism . . . . .	4

BOOKSELLERS TAKE STAND AGAINST PORNOGRAPHIC LITERATURE

The secular publishing business in Japan has been shaken to its roots over a recent stand taken by a few booksellers. A small local group refused to place on sale certain literature which was of a suggestive and pornographic nature. This movement spread among booksellers and forced publishers to withdraw certain of their publications.

The Christian Home and Family Committee has received the consent of the Executive Committee of the National Christian Council of Japan to prepare a statement to be sent out to the Tokyo Newspaper Distributing Agency and to the Tokyo Newsstand Distributors Morality Committee containing the following three points:

- 1. To encourage them to continue their efforts to stop the sale of pornographic literature in all Japan;
- 2. To encourage them to work continually toward raising standards in regard to morality, and
- 3. To attempt to uphold the principle of freedom of speech by urging voluntary withdrawal of this literature by the publishers.

ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW KYODAN MISSIONARIES

From October 31 through noon of November 2 at the Oiso Academy House an orientation program was conducted for thirty-eight new missionaries of the Kyodan who arrived in Japan during the past year. The program was sponsored by the Council of Cooperation.

A central role in the orientation was played by the Kyodan. This expresses a growing feeling that the church receiving the missionaries and her related agencies should be responsible for the orientation of new missionaries.

Against the background of the formation and development of the United Church of Christ in Japan, Moderator Omura told the new missionaries that they were beginning their service in Japan at the opening of a new age in Christian mission. He indicated that the old images of the missionary in the minds of Japanese Christians was giving way to a new concept of the role and contribution of Christian missionaries. He described the work of the Kyodan's Study Committee on Cooperative Problems and of the growing understanding of the concept of joint action in common mission which is uniting the churches in Asia and throughout the world. The structure of the Kyodan and its Constitution and Confession were described.

During an evening session the cooperative structure of the Interboard Committee and the Council of Cooperation were introduced with a description of the CoC constituent organizations.

On Friday evening (November 1) during a briefing on social work, it was pointed out that Japan has a long tradition of social services, going back to early Buddhist times in the 600's. The Rev. Tarihu Fukuda said that there is no longer poor relief as such; professional services of trained social workers are offered to those who need or request them. The Government takes full responsibility for the welfare of children, paying 80 % of any costs involved.

The Rev. Gordon Van Wyk spoke on the Christian teacher as an asset and as a liability. As an international teacher, he comes to Japan with fresh ideas; he contributes in his attempt to raise standards, by his individual work with students and by sharing his thinking with other faculty members and as a "teacher of teacher. But he may be honored, receive special treatment, given high rank much faster than at home, while still remaining a foreigner. He must learn to keep in perspective all his experiences. The J-3 missionary, by his very temporariness and mobility, is not tied down by administrative duties or long-range planning and thus is able to give more of his time to his students.

A panel of Christian leaders opened a discussion of the theological and biblical meaning of being sent and used as a missionary in the mission of Jesus Christ to the world. The question was raised in discussion of what it means to proclaim Jesus Christ as the unique revelation of God and savior of mankind in a situation where these claims on behalf of Christ are challenged by contrary claims from the side of non-Christian religions and the secular world. The biblical and theological bedrock of the Christian mission and evangelism was studied.

On the final morning practical attention was given to the task of leading English Bible classes and taking part in chapel services in Christian schools. The contribution of the missionary in making the mission of the church in Japan known in other countries through publicity and public relations was discussed.

The new missionaries expressed appreciation for the participation of Japanese Christian leaders in the orientation program. The three days were very full from morning to night and the missionaries left for home at the close tired but thankful.

The hope of the Orientation Planning Committee is that an increasing emphasis will be placed by the Kyodan upon its responsibility in helping to train the missionaries sent to the work of the Kyodan and her related Christian schools and social institutions by overseas churches.

The committee pointed out that this 3-day program was the first and opening step in an extended training program to be conducted in semi-monthly sessions through the next eight months. It is planned that such an orientation program will be conducted each year for each new group of missionaries.

HYMNS OF THE CHURCH, NEW ENGLISH HYMNAL OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN  
IS DEDICATED

On Sunday afternoon, November 10, 1963, at the Tokyo Union Church the new English hymnal of the United Church of Christ in Japan, Hymns of the Church, was dedicated. A similar service was held in Kyoto the end of October.

The choir of the church, augmented by a string quartette, sang a cantata, Jesus, Princeless Treasure, an arrangement of one of the hymns in the book.

Other hymns from the hymnal were sung, including, Praise to the Lord the Almighty; Here O Lord, Thy Servants Gather; For all the Saints; Give to the Lord as He has Blessed Thee and Thine is the Glory.

The congregation took part in a litany of praise and thanksgiving especially prepared for this service and were asked to rededicate themselves and their lives that they may "be accounted worthy one day to join in the song of the redeemed in the life to come".

Those taking part in the service, in addition to the Rev. Howard B. Haines, pastor of the church, were: Dr. Charles Germany, Secretary for Interchurch Affairs, United Church of Christ in Japan; the Rev. Jiro Hamazaki, pastor of the Toriizaka Church and chairman of the United Church Hymnal Committee; Dr. David Larson of Kobe College Music Department; and the Rev. John Hesselink, Assistant Professor, Tokyo Union Theological Seminary. All of these people and many others had worked hard and long getting the hymnal into shape and reading proof.

The Rev. Takihiro Yamakita, pastor of the Misakicho Church, was the major force in the venture. Because he was unable to be present, Dr. Larson spoke in his stead. He said that the present Japanese hymnal is a fine one and that since the life span of any hymnal is only a few decades, he hopes that the new English hymnal will become a seedbed for its next revision. It has been designed for the last half of the 20th century. He told the congregation that out of more than 200 hymns, one half represents translations. Mr. Germany expressed the hope that Christian life would be broadened and programs strengthened by the use of this hymnal. It includes more than a dozen new hymns and tunes from Japanese, Chinese German and American sources.

Member of the Committee are:

DR. JOHN HESSELINK, Instructor, Tokyo Union Theological Seminary.  
 REV. KIYOSHI II, Secretary for the Committee: Pastor, Reinanzaka Church Tokyo  
 DR. DAVID LARSON, Editor; Chairman, Kobe College Music Department.  
 MR. KOTEN OKUDA, Professor of Music, Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo.  
 REV. TAKIHIKO YAMAKITA, Chairman; Pastor Misakicho Church, Tokyo.  
 REV. KO YUKI, Pastor, Higashi Nakano Church, Tokyo.

Hymns of the Church is published by the Literature Department of the United Church of Christ in Japan. The price is ¥ 400 (\$ 1.20) per copy, plus postage. Postage to the United States and Canada is ¥ 105 (30¢). Send orders to Literature Department, 7th Floor, Kyobunkwan Building, 2 Ginza, 4-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan Send remittance with order.

NEW CHURCH LABOR CENTER OPENED AT IZUMI-SANO, OSAKA KYOKU

Sunday, November 10 the formal dedication of the new Church Labor Center was held at Izumi-Sano Church with the Rev. Masahiro Ishida, chairman of the Occupational Evangelism Committee of Osaka Kyoku in charge.

The Mayor of the City of Izumi-Sano spoke highly of the service which the church had given to Christians and non-Christians alike in physical and material ways. He continued: "Certainly there are spiritual ways by which to help working people and we need this kind of aid."

Representatives of both federations of labor, ZENRO and SOHYO were present and spoke words of appreciation for what the church had already contributed through its annual labor school. They look forward to more of such leadership from this church and new labor center.

The Rev. Henry D. Jones was asked to represent the Occupational Evangelism Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan in the ceremony. Over \$ 8,000 had been contributed toward this new building for a larger service to the people of the community. Contributions from Germany, Canada and the United States, along with those of companies, labor unions, members of Izumi-Sano Church and the United Church made it possible to open the building debt free.

The city of Izumi-Sano has a population of 50,000 and is basically an industrial town, one of the satellite towns south of Osaka city. Over 6,000 workers are engaged in factories within the city while several hundred thousands from the surrounding areas commute to other factories along the south shore of Osaka Bay. The chief industries are cotton and jute weaving plus the making of rope from hemp and jute and steel cable.

The pastor of Izumi-Sano Church is the Rev. M. Imai; associate Mr. Terada.

#### PRAYER BREAKFASTS ON THE INCREASE

It is reported that prayer breakfasts are being held in increasing numbers in the metropolitan areas of Japan. Some are an outgrowth of the Osaka Christian Crusade of four years ago and the Tokyo Christian Crusade (World Vision) of two years ago. Others have begun because of the gradually increasing interest and participation of laymen in Christian concerns. There are many serious Christians who are eager that Japanese laymen be provided with the opportunity for concentrated corporate prayer. The sessions usually start with breakfast, followed by Bible reading by those present, a meditation by a leader and voluntary prayers. Sometimes a visitor who is in the neighborhood, such as Walter Jud, is invited to attend and take a leading part in the service. These gatherings are proving to be effective means of reaching businessmen in the community who are not Christian and nurturing the faith of many who are in the Christian fold.

#### NEW FILM STRIPS FOR Evangelism

All interested in Evangelism in the Japan of tomorrow are encouraged to see new film-strips which have been acquired by AVACO:

"The Cliff Dwellers"

"A Place for Me"

At present they have only English script but with enough demand this can well be adapted to the situation in Japan and Japanese language. Minister of Construction KONO has already projected the post-Olympic construction program as being the housing of one-third of Japan's population in new apartment cities. This means tearing down many old communities and moving people. Is the Church in Japan prepared to meet the new "Cliff Dwellers"? How is the Church to help people meet the traumatic experience of leaving old friends, school and play associates and being placed in new and strange places? Is there to be "a place for ME"?